



Elderberry Express

“Celebrating 22 Years of Providing Independence”

2009

Elderberry Express is about dispatchers, drivers, clients, and fund raising.

Church-supported financial assistance is important to Elderberry Express. The following Pittsford churches have been instrumental in this endeavor. The Board of Directors has a representative from each of these churches.

Christ Clarion Church—Penny Higgins
Christ Episcopal Church—Bob Green
Church of the Transfiguration—Tim Smith
First Presbyterian Church—Dianne Brown
St. Louis Catholic Church—Dave Mountain
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church—Joan Rohlin
United Church of Pittsford—Norm Johnson

Through church announcements and bulletin information Elderberry Express continues to indicate its need for more volunteer drivers. A number of our volunteers are active in the above churches.



MEET ONE OF OUR DISPATCHERS

One of our volunteers is Gaby Wohlaer. Gaby began volunteering in 1998. She has done an outstanding job as a dispatcher. Gaby is a Kodak retiree. She wanted to do something other than just sitting at home in front of a TV. Her phone contacts provide that personal touch so much appreciated by our volunteer drivers and clients. Gaby has developed a two-session dispatcher training program that allows Elderberry Express to get and keep new dispatchers. Gaby also fills in for the Elderberry director while he takes vacation time away from work.

Gaby Wohlaer gets involved in other activities that provide joy to her life. She has taken up the violin and her enjoyment of music has led her to become an active member of the Eastman School’s New Horizons Orchestra.

She also serves as a volunteer librarian. Gaby also volunteers as a “storm watcher” for Scott Hetsko’s weather team at WROC-TV Ch. 8 and is a supporting member of the Planetary Society.



MEET ONE OF OUR DRIVERS

Dick Krager, born in Gowanda, New York, grew up in Cattaraugus, New York, both of which are small villages south of Buffalo. While often wandering the neighborhood, he was eager for mischief with the other boys.

High school was replete with playing trumpet in the school and community bands, crushing the ball on the tennis courts and delivering newspapers. He majored in mathematics at SUNY Buffalo and got a teaching job at Brighton High School in 1968. After two years, the army draft sent him to various stateside bases and to Germany. He married Marilyn Yates, an occupational therapist from Buffalo, in 1971, and they lived off base in a small German village and explored Europe for six months. He returned to teaching in Brighton in 1972 and earned an M.A. in mathematics education from the University of Rochester in 1975. Dick retired in 2003. They have three beautiful daughters, two of whom are married, a grandson and a granddaughter!

Dick started driving for Elderberry in 2003 and loves it! He will tell you that meeting nice people while providing needed transportation is a great reward. He

enjoys church choir, tennis, golf, reading, gardening, cross-country skiing, hiking, community band and travel. Dick believes that serving others enriches the fabric of life for all in our community. He agrees with Gandhi, who said, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."



**MEET ONE OF OUR CLIENTS!
(Norman Allentoff--right)
(Ed Umbach—Volunteer Driver)**

On reaching the age of 85, Norman Allentoff decided that it was time to give up driving, except in emergencies, and has been happy to find that the friendly services of Elderberry Express are available to help fill his basic transportation needs, especially medical appointments and shopping at Wegmans. He has family living nearby in his Stuyvesant Road neighborhood with whom he is fortunate in sharing social and recreational interests, especially in community music making.

Norm retired from Kodak in 1986, where he worked as an organic chemist on film emulsions. His professional education was at the University of Toronto, following service with the Royal Canadian Air Force during WW2. After working for some years for the Canadian Department of Agriculture, he moved with his late wife June to Rochester in 1958.

Following "retirement" he remained busy, doing patent consulting work with Kodak and other local firms, as well as Board and Committee membership in Continuing Developmental Services (CDS), now a large human services agency. He has four sons and one daughter, three of whom live locally, as well as three grandchildren. His life-long interests include nature photography, bird, animal and plant watching, gardening, music and wide reading. One of his sons is somewhat autistic and is supplied residential and employment services by CDS, though he is home for weekends and vacations. He says that he would never voluntarily leave Pittsford, where he has enjoyed living since 1977.

FUNDING SOURCES

Elderberry Express is a non-profit organization that relies on various sources of funding in order to provide this transportation service to Pittsford senior citizens and residents of Linden Knoll. Financial help comes from donations from clients, churches, some assistance from the Town of Pittsford, and anonymous donations as well. We also receive some contributions through your gift to United Way. Our United Way Donor Option is # 2376. Contributions help us maintain this vital service to our community.

SERVICES AND OPERATIONS

- Provide transportation for seniors who reside in Pittsford and at Linden Knoll
- Hours of service are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday
- Service requests should be made two days prior to appointment
- Clients must be ambulatory (use of cane or walker is permissible)
- Serves Monroe County or to within a 10-mile radius of the Village of Pittsford
- Contributions, bequests or memorials are graciously accepted
- To volunteer, or for information, call Gil Landry, Executive Director, at 248-6237